

There are some who say Morse Code is necessary to keep the bands free of illegal activities. They say the code keeps those who aren't serious out and prevent what occurred with the CB band. Morse code testing has been removed as a requirement for the Technician class Amateur Radio license for some years now. There have been no indications of a measurable increase in illegal activities on the Amateur bands at VHF and higher frequencies. The percentage of illegal and questionable operations by Amateur Radio licensees, code free license or not, while regrettably not zero, remains very small, according to comments by Riley Hollingsworth of the FCC's enforcement division. There is no reason to expect that granting of code-free licenses for HF access would result in an increase in illegal operation or be in any way different from the VHF experience.

I favor ending the Morse code skill requirement for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses, including the removal of Element 1, as defined in sections § 97.501(a) and (b) of the Commission's rules. I also favor an immediate end to testing for Morse code skills, as defined in section §97.503(a) of the Commission's Rules. I also favor the immediate granting of "Technician Plus" privileges to all existing Technician class Amateur Radio licensees. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Kathy Matlock, KL0YM